

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 08025 01 OF 02 161435Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----161438Z 019398 /40

O 161411Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3914
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 08025

EXDIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI
NAIROBI FOR AMBASSADOR LOW
LISBON FOR LAKE, S/P WITH VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY
TEHRAN FOR THE SECRETARY

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, SF, ZA, US, UK
SUBJECT: SMITH'S WARNING TO KAUNDA OF POSSIBLE
PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACK

REF: STATE 110922

1. FCO HAS PROVIDED US WITH TEXTS OF MESSAGES SENT BY
A) CALLAGHAN TO KAUNDA, B) CALLAGHAN TO IAN SMITH (VIA
AIR VICE MARSHAL HAWKINS) AND C) OWENS TO BOTHA, ON
MAY 15:

A) DEAR KENNETH

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER ABUKT DR. DAVID OWEN'S
MESSAGE TO YOU. I AM SORRY NOT TO HAVE REPLIED EARLIER
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BUT HE IS AT PRESENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND I WISHED TO
CONSULT WITH HIM; THIS HAS TAKEN A LITTLE TIME.

YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT TO ASSUME THAT HIS MESSAGE WAS
SENT WITH THE FULL AUTHORITY OF H. M. GOVERNMENT TO ALERT
YOU IMMEDIATELY TO WHAT MR. SMITH HAD SAID, AND SO THAT
YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO JUDGE HOW SERIOUS THE RISK OF
VIOLENCE WAS. WE ARE OURSELVES MAKING AN URGENT ASSESS-

MENT OF THE THREAT AND I WILL ENSURE THAT YOU WILL RECEIV
IMMEDIATELY OUR VIEWS.

I ENTIRELY SHARE YOUR CONCERN AND DO NOT THINK WE
CAN LEAVE THE MATTER AT THAT. AS YOU KNOW I DO NOT
NORMALLY CORRESPOND WITH MR. SMITH BUT IN DAVID OWEN'S
ABSENCE I HAVE SENT HIM A STRONG MESSAGE SAYING THAT I
WOULD UTTERLY CONDEMN ANY PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE AND WARNING
HIM OF THE GRIM CONSEQUENCES THAT ANY ESCALATION OF THE
FIGHTING WILL ENTAIL. I HAVE ALSO ASKED THAT A MESSAGE
SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN-
DICATING MY VERY STRONG REACTION AND INVITING THEM TO
URGE MR. SMITH TO DESIST FROM ANY ACTION SUCH AS MOUNTING
A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE.

DAVID OWEN HAS BEEN CONSULTING WITH THE AMERICAN
SECRETARY OF STATE ABOUT THE SITUATION WHILST BOTH OF
THEM HAVE BEEN ATTENDING THE CENTO MEETING IN IRAN. IN
HIS SPEECH AT CENTO HE MADE A DELIBERATE REFERENCE TO
THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. HE RETURNS
TOMORROW AND I WILL HAVE FURTHER TALKS WITH HIM AT ONCE
TO SEE HOW THE LATEST INITIATIVE TO SECURE MAJORITY RULE
CAN BE PRESSED AHEAD. I WILL THEN BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU
AGAIN, SO THAT WE CAN WORK TOGETHER IN THESE ANXIOUS DAYS
WITH WARM REGARDS, JIM CALLAGHAN.

B) QUOTE: I HAVE HEARD FROM DAVID OWEN ABOUT YOUR
MESSAGE IN WHICH YOU WARNED THAT YOU MIGHT IN CERTAIN
CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE "PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES " AGAINST

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PAGE 01 LONDON 08025 02 OF 02 161430Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----161437Z 019332 /50
O 161411Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3915

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 08025

EXDIS

"TERRORIST" CAMPS IN ZAMBIA. I MUST LEAVE YOU IN NO DOUBT THAT THIS WOULD HAVE THE MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA. IT WOULD DRASTICALLY REDUCE THE CHANCES OF A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME FOR THE PRESENT ATTEMPT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON AN INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION. IT WOULD ALSO LEAD TO AN ESCALATION OF THE WAR, WITH ALL THAT THIS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY INVOLVE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA AS A WHOLE.

I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THESE RISKS AND I URGE YOU TO WEIGH THEM MOST CAREFULLY. WE WOULD BE BOUND TO CONDEMN ANY PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES. JIM CALLAGHAN. UNQUOTE

C) QUOTE: I HAVE HAD A MESSAGE FROM MR. SMITH THAT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES HE MAY "MOUNT PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES ACROSS THE RIVER AGAINST THE TERRORIST BASES" IN ZAMBIA.

WE HAVE WARNED HIM VERY CLEARLY OF THE SERIOUS DANGER THAT ANY ACTION OF THIS SORT WOULD LEAD TO AN ESCALATION OF THE WAR. PRESIDENT KAUNDA IS AWARE OF
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THE POSSIBILITY AND I UNDERSTAND THAT HE WILL BE MAKING A BROADCAST ON THE SUBJECT ON MONDAY.

I AM SURE YOU WOULD SHARE OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT MR. SMITH MIGHT LAUNCH SUCH STRIKES.

IT SEEMS ESSENTIAL THAT WE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO RESTRAIN HIM, OR AT LEAST ASK HIM TO WEIGH MOST CAREFULLY THE RISKS INVOLVED. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ALSO FEEL IT APPROPRIATE TO SEND A SIMILAR MESSAGE TO RHODESIA.
DAVID OWEN. UNQUOTE

2. UK HIGH COMMISSION LUSAKA HAS CONFIRMED THAT CALLAGHAN/KAUNDA LETTER WAS DELIVERED TO KAUNDA'S PRIVATE SECRETARY AT 1530Z ON MAY 15.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Handling Restrictions:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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